

NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**



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Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

Kernan Awards Grant to Train Airtomic Employees in Jeffersonville

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. –Gov. Joe Kernan announced today that the Indiana Department of Workforce Development has awarded a \$34,088 grant to Jeffersonville's Airtomic to upgrade the skills of 16 employees.

A leading manufacturer of precision engineered seals, piston rings and alignment joints Airtomic products are used in the aerospace, airline and nuclear industries. Using the funding, apprenticeships will be provided to 15 employees and an associate degree for one employee will also be offered. To match the state grant, Airtomic will contribute more than \$1.4 million towards the training costs.

"Airtomic is one of the state's leading 21st Century companies. It's exactly the type of high-tech production that we want to attract and retain here in Indiana, and that's why we are thrilled to partner with them in this effort," said Kernan.

The four-year apprenticeship program was developed with the assistance of Prosser Technical School, and will offer three different tracts: machinist, quality control and maintenance. Participants will attend classroom training along with on-the-job training that leads to journeyman status. Twelve employees will enter the machinist tract, two in quality control and one in maintenance. The program is also available to all hourly employees. In addition, through Indiana University Southeast one employee will seek an associate's degree in engineering.

"Airtomic is extremely grateful to the state of Indiana for this training award," said Steve Key, vice president and general manager of Airtomic. It is this type of support that attracted our company to Indiana when we were looking to site our new facility. The monies used in the training of our employees will serve to increase their skills allowing us to become more competitive in this challenging aerospace market."

All Indiana businesses are eligible to apply for Incumbent Worker Training grants. The grants are designed to create a world-class workforce in Indiana, through continuous improvement to the skill levels of Hoosier workers.

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, oversees the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates the a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this or other DWD programs, contact Jeff Harris at 317/232-3396 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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